

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An audio information recording apparatus for sectioning audio information into predetermined data units and for recording the units onto an information recording medium, comprising  
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a recording part for recording soundless data and audio data such that the soundless data and the audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, if the soundless  
10 data and the audio data are sequentially recorded as the audio information onto the information recording medium.

2. An audio information recording apparatus for sectioning audio information into predetermined data  
15 units and for recording the units onto an information recording medium, comprising:  
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first calculation means for calculating a number of the predetermined data units where soundless data is to be recorded, from a requested soundless data section,  
20 if the soundless data and the audio data are sequentially recorded as the audio information onto the information recording medium;

first recording means for recording soundless data corresponding to the number of the predetermined data  
25 units, calculated by the first calculation means, and for subsequently recording the audio data for every predetermined data units;

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second calculation means for calculating backward  
a reproduction start position of the soundless data,  
from a reproduction position of the audio data at a  
boundary between the soundless data and the audio data  
5 recorded by the first recording means, based on the  
requested soundless data section; and

10 second recording means for recording, onto the  
information recording medium, information indicating  
the reproduction start position of the soundless data  
calculated by the second calculation means and a  
recording start position of the soundless data, and  
information indicating the reproduction start position  
of the audio data.

15 3. An audio information recording method for  
sectioning audio information into predetermined data  
units and for recording the units onto an information  
recording medium, comprising

20 a recording step of recording soundless data and  
audio data such that the soundless data and the audio  
data are separated from each other at a boundary  
between the predetermined data units, if the soundless  
data and the audio data are sequentially recorded as  
the audio information onto the information recording  
medium.

25 4. An audio information recording method for  
sectioning audio information into predetermined data  
units and for recording the units onto an information

recording medium, comprising:

- a first calculation step of calculating a number of the predetermined data units where soundless data is to be recorded, from a requested soundless data section,
  - 5 if the soundless data and the audio data are sequentially recorded as the audio information onto the information recording medium;
- a first recording step of recording soundless data corresponding to the number of the predetermined data units, calculated by the first calculation step, and of subsequently recording the audio data for every predetermined data units;
- a second calculation step of calculating backward a reproduction start position of the soundless data, from a reproduction position of the audio data at a boundary between the soundless data and the audio data recorded by the first recording step, based on the requested soundless data section; and
- a second recording step of recording, onto the information recording medium, information indicating the reproduction start position of the soundless data calculated by the second calculation means and a recording start position of the soundless data, and information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data.

25 5. An audio information reproducing apparatus for reproduction from an information recording medium in

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which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, comprising

5           a reproduction part for performing reproduction from the information recording medium in the predetermined data units, thereby to start reproduction from a top position of the audio data.

6. An audio information reproducing apparatus for  
10 reproduction from an information recording medium in which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, the information recording medium recording information indicating a reproduction start position and a recording start position of the soundless data, and information indicating a reproduction start position of the audio data, and the apparatus comprising:

20           first reproduction means for reproducing the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data; and

25           second reproduction means for starting reproduction from a top position of the audio data, based on the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data reproduced by the first reproduction means.

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7. An audio information reproducing apparatus for reproduction from an information recording medium in which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and  
5 audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, the information recording medium recording information indicating a reproduction start position and a recording start position of the soundless data, and information  
10 indicating a reproduction start position of the audio data, and the apparatus comprising:

reproduction part for determining a soundless data section, based on the information indicating the reproduction start position of the soundless data and  
15 the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data, and for reproducing the soundless data section.

8. An audio information reproducing method for reproduction from an information recording medium in which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, comprising  
20 a reproduction step of performing reproduction from the information recording medium in the predetermined data units, thereby to start reproduction  
25 from a top position of the audio data.

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9. An audio information reproducing method for reproduction from an information recording medium in which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and  
5 audio data are separated from each other at a boundary between the predetermined data units, the information recording medium recording information indicating a reproduction start position and a recording start position of the soundless data, and information indicating a reproduction start position of the audio data, and the method comprising:

a first reproduction step of reproducing the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data; and

15 a second reproduction step of starting reproduction from a top position of the audio data, based on the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data reproduced by the first reproduction step.

20 10. An audio information reproducing method for reproduction from an information recording medium in which audio information is sectioned into predetermined data units and recorded such that soundless data and audio data are separated from each other at a boundary  
25 between the predetermined data units, the information recording medium recording information indicating a reproduction start position and a recording start

position of the soundless data, and information indicating a reproduction start position of the audio data, and the method comprising:

5 a reproduction step of determining a soundless data section, based on the information indicating the reproduction start position of the soundless data and the information indicating the reproduction start position of the audio data, and of reproducing the soundless data section.